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Thursday, June 5, 2014

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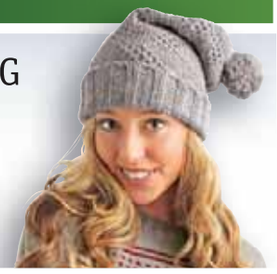

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Local kid trends worldwide after The Voice audition

Calgary's next star?

Darren Espanto smiles, struts on Southeast Asia stage

Darren Espanto CONTRIBUTED

As a toddler, Darren Espanto was known to serenade his parents with a tune from The Lion King or Sleeping Beauty in the comfort of their Calgary abode.

But on Sunday, the now-13-year-old student from St. Cyril School turned into an overnight Internet sensation after an episode of The Voice Kids — a reality singing competition staged in the Philippines— aired his audition.

Espanto strutted his stuff, sang a rendition of Jessie J's Domino and garnered support from two of three judges, all highly respected recording artists themselves.

His video was instantly circulated on YouTube, netting hundreds of thousands of views.

On Twitter, his name trended No. 1 in the world.

"I felt really proud of myself and it was awesome," Espanto said. "I felt blessed because so many people were talking about me."

On Monday, however, Espanto returned to St. Cyril with his focus largely devoted to writing an advanced test before soon departing back to the Philippines to participate as an actual contestant on The Voice Kids.

Espanto said his classmates were excited, but still treated him like "an ordinary person."

Because all of The Voice's audition episodes haven't aired, Espanto is not sure how many fellow vocalists he'll be up against or how long he'll be in Asia. He'll have his mother, Marinel, by his side and his father Lyndon will watch anxiously from home.

Although proud — and a tad flabbergasted — of his son's rise to fame, Lyndon said his boy does a good job of staying grounded, especially for a pre-teen.

"We try not to put the stardom in his head," he said. "He prioritizes his school and his family.… He tries to separate the singing from everything. He's not on his cellphone all the time, he takes time to study. We were actually so proud because he had an honours distinction at school."

Darren, meanwhile, said he hopes to use his talents to someday help the less fortunate. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

COPS KILLED IN SHOOTING

Police officers take cover behind their vehicles in Moncton, N.B., on Wednesday. The RCMP says three of its officers were killed in Moncton by a man armed with guns and two other officers were injured as the Mounties conducted a manhunt across the city's north end on Wednesday night for the shooter. **See story, page 18.** MONCTON TIMES & TRANSCRIPT-RON WARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Road closures downtown set slow pace for summer driving

Detours and delays. Construction projects above and below ground to blame, city says

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Drivers in downtown Calgary are running into more lane reductions and road closures this summer, something the city says is largely due to development projects and underground utility work, in addition to regular street maintenance.

The city itself isn't undertaking any more street rehabilitation work than normal for this time of year, roads spokesperson Carissa Vescio said Wednesday, but other construction projects are impacting traffic.

"There's only 26 weeks of dry weather in Calgary so everyone is trying to do everything as the weather permits," Vescio said. "The combination of the development and the utility work and our regular road repairs does create a lot of challenges for traversing downtown."

The city issues daily road-closure reports and Wednesday's list included more than twice as many lane reductions in the downtown area compared to the same day a year earlier.

Motorist Marc Savoie said it seems like construction projects are happening "on every block" downtown and it's hard for drivers to get anywhere without hitting a detour or delay.

Dan Ford was more philosophical about all the core-area construction.

"It's going to slow me down a little bit," he said through his driver's-side window, as his vehicle sat idle in traffic Wednesday afternoon near a lane reduction on 4 Avenue SW.

"But I understand it's got to be done."

Seems like just last year ...

Construction-related closures in the downtown area:

- **June 4, 2013:** 7 affected sites, 8 lane reductions, 3 full road closures
- **June 4, 2014:** 11 affected sites, 17 lane reductions, 4 full road closures

Cars queue up at one of numerous lane reduction sites in downtown Calgary Wednesday. Inset: Icons on the city's interactive online road map indicate a cluster of core-area construction projects. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO; INSET: CITY OF CALGARY/SCREENGRAB

CBE to conduct review for PR spending

Trustees with Calgary's public school board have tasked a legal representative with looking at the organization's use of a "high-stakes communications firm," an arrangement that Metro has learned drained nearly a quarter-million from the organization's coffers.

But Calgary Board of Education officials have declined to provide any more details on its internal probe and what could be the net result of such a move despite questioning over a series of days.

In early May, a freedom of information request revealed that former Chief Supt. Naomi Johnson met routinely with Navigator representatives between September 2012 and September 2013.

The CBE says it ceased its relationship with Navigator in March.

Since then, trustees have discussed the use of Navigator in closed-door meetings, according to sources, and have tasked General Counsel Greg Francis with investigating the contract value and how it was awarded. Francis is reportedly to reveal his findings later this month.

Derek Fildebrandt with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation said internal investigations "are always sub-par," and reiterated questions of why Navigator was needed by the school board, given that it already employs nearly two-dozen communications staff.

"Navigator's fingerprints are all over the CBE, they're all over the province and we can't find any substantial evidence that they're actually needed when there are enough communications workers and enough spin doctors in-house internally."

Sources, meanwhile, have confirmed more than $240,000 was paid out to Navigator during 20 months of work with the CBE, meaning the board did go over the monthly $10,000 retainer it said it paid to the firm.

On May 8, in an email, the CBE said, "We are unaware of the $10,000 monthly retainer ever being exceeded."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Hockey Calgary

Female Timbits program introduced to boost participation

Some of Calgary's tiniest hockey players will soon be able to lace up their skates in an all-girls division next year.

Hockey Calgary announced Wednesday it will be launching a female Timbits program next season for girls aged five and six years old.

"We feel this new initiative will encourage more girls to try hockey and at the end of the day, we want to keep growing this great game," spokesperson Tracy Wasylak said in a release.

In a bid to ease scheduling conflicts for parents, officials say the program will have consistent ice-times and arenas.

Registration opened June 1, and it will cost $525 for up to 50 hours of developmental ice.

About 9,000 women play organized hockey in the province, according to Hockey Alberta. METRO

Grande Prairie

Driver in fatal crash gets full parole

A driver who caused a crash that killed four high school football players in northern Alberta has been granted full parole.

The Parole Board of Canada says Brenden Holubowich is to be released June 15.

Holubowich, who is 24, has been on day parole since last fall.

He was sentenced to three years in February 2013 after pleading guilty to dangerous driving causing death and dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

His pickup truck crashed into a car carrying five members of the Warriors football team from Grande Prairie Composite High School in 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbours of planned NW school lament lack of notice

Christine Meikle. Facility for special-needs students desperately needed

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Traffic congestion, loss of green space and little notice of impending construction are among concerns being voiced by neighbours of a planned northwest Calgary replacement school.

The Calgary Board of Education intends to open the new Christine Meikle School at 3525–50 Street NW no later than September 2016.

The facility will house up to 160 students and serve in place of a 55-year-old site bearing the same name in the city's northeast, according to documents posted to the school board's website. But area residents stormed to the office of area MLA Donna Kennedy-Glans last week to voice concerns about the project.

"It was such a surprise to the community to have surveyors showing up on that green space telling the community — renters and people that own houses there — they were going to build a school, and nobody new about it, including (Coun.) Ward Sutherland or myself," Kennedy-Glans said. "That's an issue — that's not a very appropriate communication or consultation plan."

Quoted

"It would be the courtesy to at least do some consultation and see if there are any issues and if it's the right fit for the community and the school."

Ward Sutherland, Ward 1 city councillor

Jessica Kryski lives near the school site and said the area is already quite busy with vehicle traffic, especially given its proximity to Market Mall.

"It's a great dog walking area, it's access to the off-leash area, and plus a lot of evenings in the spring, summer and fall this is really busy with little-league baseball games," Kryski said of the fields where the school will be built.

The CBE did not provide comment on the development Wednesday but scheduled a Thursday morning "technical briefing" for media to discuss the project.

But Sutherland said the lack of consultation with area residents about the new Meikle site was just one example of a common disconnect between education planners and the city officials they rely on for surrounding infrastructure. He said residents in Scenic Acres have been given little information about a recently announced francophone school being constructed in their neighbourhood that could house about 400 kids.

Sutherland also previously expressed concerns over how the CBE handled communication regarding a middle school for the communities of Rocky Ridge and Royal Oak during his time as the area's community association president.

"The policy at the city is with anything that affects the residents we do open houses and we do engagement, and it's a standard policy," he said. "I really have a difficult time understanding why the school boards aren't doing that."

WITH FILES FROM KEN VAN DE WALLE

Jessica Kryski said she's disappointed that residents were given little input on a school for special-needs kids being constructed in her neighbourhood.
KEN VAN DE WALLE/FOR METRO

Education. CBE names new top exec

Calgary's public school board has moved its former No. 2 executive into the organization's top spot.

David Stevenson had been tasked to fill in on an interim basis after Calgary Board of Education chief superintendent Naomi Johnson left in April.

"We are thrilled that David will continue to serve the Calgary Board of Education as chief superintendent," said trustee board chair Sheila Taylor. "We conducted a Canada-wide search for this position and were pleased to discover that our most outstanding candidate was from within the CBE."

Stevenson was a "unanimous choice" among the seven-member trustee board, according to a release.

It wasn't clear how much Stevenson's promotion would net him in additional income. The CBE said it would not release his contract because it was a "personnel matter," but his monetary compensation would be included in annual financial statements, something required by Alberta Education.

Stevenson's predecessor earned $288,000 in base salary and nearly $76,000 in benefits during the 2012-13 school year. A clause in her contract guaranteeing her another full year's pay after resigning came under fire from critics after Metro ran a story on it last December.

A CBE director praised Stevenson's appointment on Twitter Wednesday. "David is a leader of substance and depth and puts students and their education at the heart of all decisions," wrote Brandt Parker, the organization's director of learning technologies.

Stevenson has more than 30 years' experience and was named the CBE's deputy chief superintendent in 2009. METRO

McKenzie Towne eyes new recreation facility

A rendering of McKenzie Towne's proposed plaza and recreation site.
COURTESY MCKENZIE TOWNE COUNCIL

Sitting on a "big demographic bubble" of soon-to-be teens, community leaders in one southeast community are pushing forward plans for a major outdoor recreation centre.

Residents in McKenzie Towne are being asked this month to approve spending $2 million on a plaza project. It would add an outdoor skateboard park, three-on-three hockey rink and youth climbing wall to a quadrant starved for recreation facilities.

The one thing it won't have? Parking spaces. "That's like having an escalator up to your fitness club," said Ryan Vollmar, chief plaza planner.

The June 17 vote marks a key development in a roughly three-year campaign to add a permanent rec facility. It comes as the neighbourhood becomes increasingly packed with children aged five to 14 years old and older teens, according to the community's website.

"We have this big demographic bubble — if you drive through the community it's full of five-, six-, eight-year-olds," said Craig Gorman, president of McKenzie Towne's 13-member board.

Seeking grant money

The proposed plaza is slated for community-owned land southwest of the landmark traffic circle, and slated for completion by next fall.

- Gorman and his council colleagues stressed the project could be done without raising residential member fees, but they're seeking grant money before cracking open the community coffers.

"We recognize in five years those cute (kids) are going to be awkward teenagers, just like I was." BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

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Calgary soccer clubs split over high-performance kids league

Calgary's next class of soccer superstars like Caniggia Elva, pictured, will likely come through a different stream as Alberta looks to launch a new high-performance league in 2015. METRO FILE

New elite league. The league, slated to start in April 2015, is drawing some criticism

Plans to put a high-performance soccer league in Alberta are drawing a red card from one Calgary soccer academy.

Coaching specialist Henry Haeusler takes issue with the new super-elite league, saying it's the wrong way to boost Canada's performance on the international stage.

"If you copy everything from professional soccer, it will be a disaster," said Haeusler, who serves as technical director of the Calgary West Soccer Club.

The so-called Alberta High Performance Soccer League is slated to start up in April 2015 and will grow to eventually accommodate players from ages 12 to 17 years old. Registration costs nearly $4,000 for the 26-game outdoor season, plus additional matches and high-end training as Metro first reported last week.

Haeusler argues the new league is too expensive, with too much travel time and draws from too shallow of a coaching pool. He also maintained the league is too quick to separate the wheat from the chaff.

"You cannot say that a 12-year-old will be a national team player when he's 18," said Haeusler.

British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario already operate high-performance leagues in Canada. Southwest United Soccer Association — one of the top clubs vying for a high-performance team — director Ramon Mifflin contends it's important to cultivate talent from an early age.

"The essence of this HPL is to have a different mindset as you're growing older with goals of becoming a professional or national team player," Mifflin said. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Soccer

No franchises have yet been declared to date, although officials foresee roughly three squads from Calgary and Edmonton, with another two based out of Saskatchewan.

- Teams are scheduled to play two out-of-province games and embark on four road trips within Alberta, according to material presented last week.
- Canada was ranked No. 110 worldwide by FIFA in May. That's double the decade-high of No. 55 in 2007.

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Pilot deal. TransAlta agrees to use Ghost Lake dam for flood protection

Under a temporary agreement, TransAlta will keep water at a fixed level behind its Ghost Lake dam until July 31 to better protect Calgary from a potential surge in the Bow River.

The deal, announced Wednesday, "provides another important layer of flood protection" for the city, Environment Minister Robin Campbell said in a statement.

The province and the power company have been in talks for months about using the hydro dam more for flood-mitigation purposes.

There had been speculation that the province might compensate TransAlta for lost hydroelectric generation, but the current agreement involves no financial transactions, said Jason Penner, a public-affairs officer with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

"Basically we're treating it as a kind of pilot project," Penner said. "After July 31, both parties will take a look at how it worked."

The province estimates the extra capacity would reduce peak downstream flows on the Bow River by an additional 100 cubic metres per second if there were to be another high-water event.

The province estimates the peak flow on the Bow River in Calgary in June 2013 was about 1,740 cubic metres per second.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Ghost Lake Dam JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Freedom of information

NDP seeks paper trail for Redford's 'sky palace'

Alberta's NDP is asking the privacy commissioner to investigate why there is no paper trail on the cancellation of a penthouse suite for former premier Alison Redford.

NDP Infrastructure critic Deron Bilous says a freedom-of-information request on the so-called "sky palace" turned up nothing.

Bilous says that suggests a coverup or a bid by the governing PCs to keep a politically embarrassing project off the record.

Privacy commissioner Jill Clayton is already investigating claims that, under Redford, the government sought to interfere in the freedom-of-information process to limit political fallout on controversial issues.

Redford resigned as premier in March amid controversy over opulent spending on herself and her inner circle.

Former infrastructure minister Ric McIver said at the time he cancelled the penthouse project in January but offered no contemporaneous proof of that decision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary support agencies were divided Wednesday on whether new federal prostitution legislation would actually encourage more sex-trade workers to step out of the shadows and seek help. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Support agencies torn on prostitution model

Proposed legislation. One official suggests approach may lead cops to exploit victims

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Agencies supporting Calgarians caught up in the sex trade were divided on a new "made-in-Canada" approach to prostitution that the federal government rolled out Wednesday, which primarily targets the buyers of sex, not the sellers.

The legislation, announced by Justice Minister Peter MacKay, appeared to be close in nature to the "Nordic model" used in countries such as Sweden and Norway.

Advocates suggest the approach generates better dialogue between sex-trade workers and law enforcement because it removes the fear of criminal charges.

But Amanda Berjian, program manager with the Shift branch of Calgary's HIV Community Link, said she's seen numerous reports from Nordic nations of prostitutes who did come forward being repeatedly subject to police videotaping and collection of physical evidence from their bodies.

"If the intent of this bill is to prevent exploitation, using sex workers as tools of evidence to prosecute the people they're relying on to make a living is a very unbalanced situation," she said.

Shift's primary goal is to provide support to current and former sex-trade workers to improve their quality of life.

Marina Giacomin with the Servants Anonymous Society was more optimistic about the new legislation and said city police already appear keen on proactive approaches to aid sex-trade workers.

"They really understand that if there's somebody out there (working as a prostitute) there's a very good chance that they're being victimized and exploited," she said.

Alberta's Solicitor General Jonathan Denis has also vouched for the Nordic model and begun collecting signatures for a petition he plans to introduce in the provincial legislature this fall.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victims or sources?

"Using sex workers as tools of evidence to prosecute the people they're relying on to make a living is a very unbalanced situation."

Amanda Berjian of HIV Community Link, saying police operating under a similar model in Nordic countries often exploit distraught prostitutes for information

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Twelve-year-old Alex Weber is once again the driving force behind a fundraising effort to build wells in Africa. KEN VAN DE WALLE/FOR METRO

Calgarians set to bike for Africa

Wheels for Wells. Local youth started event three years ago to help countries get access to clean water

KEN
VAN DE WALLE
calgary@metronews.ca

Today, thousands of people in Africa will die because they do not have access to the basics they need to survive, and a young Calgary boy wants to help.

"When I was nine, I found out that 4,500 kids die every single day from water-related diseases, just because they don't have access to clean water," said Alex Weber, 12.

"And that's not OK with me."

Weber is the host of Wheels for Wells, a charity fundraiser that has Calgarians riding their bikes throughout the city in order to raise money to help drill clean water wells in Africa. The goal this year is to raise $50,000, which will be enough for two wells.

"Lots of people in Calgary like biking, and I like it, too," said Weber on why biking was his choice to raise awareness.

This is the third year of Wheels for Wells, with Weber spearheading the event each year. During the May long weekend Weber biked from Vancouver to Calgary in four days to raise awareness and support for the event.

"We have a lot of support. We have rides in Calgary, and have five locations (for rides). The Calgary ride is going really well. We have about 100 people registered so far."

All money raised by the event will go to World Vision, which partnered with Wheels for Wells. They will use the money to drill the wells. The ride will take place this Saturday at 9 a.m. For more information visit wheelsforwells.ca.

Quoted

"I found out that 4,500 kids die every single day from water-related diseases, just because they don't have access to clean water."

Alex Weber, 12, on why he started Wheels for Wells

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Murdered doctor a 'real servant of humanity'

Extremists. Calls for Ottawa to pressure Pakistan to better protect minorities after Canadian heart doctor targeted

A Canadian cardiologist slain by gunmen in Pakistan is being remembered as a selfless humanitarian who was targeted for belonging to a religious minority.

A burial ceremony for Mehdi Ali Qamar saw impassioned calls for Ottawa to pressure the Pakistani government to better protect religious minorities against extremism.

Qamar, an Ahmadiyya Muslim who had returned to the country to do volunteer work at a hospital, was gunned down May 26 in central Pakistan in front of his wife and two-year-old son.

His nephew, Nasir Chaudhary, read a family statement calling Qamar a "real servant of humanity who never discriminated against his patients."

Relatives remembered him for always cracking jokes and penning poems about his love of life.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada president Lal Khan Malik said Qamar was "murdered because of his faith'' and said the Harper government must urge Pakistan to "stand up to extremists and promote freedom of religion."

Malik said "there is a patten to these murders," saying 137 other Ahmadiyyas have been killed in the south Asian country in the last four years.

"His murder is a direct result of the state-sponsored extremism that is practised in Pakistan."

Malik said Qamar, who lived in Ohio the last 10 years, "redeemed mankind through his good works."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men carry the casket of Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, the Canadian-American cardiologist who was assassinated in Pakistan while on a humanitarian mission, at his funeral service in Vaughan, Ont., on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan

Brothers arrested for stoning sister to death

Pakistani police have arrested two brothers who participated in a mob attack during which their sister was stoned to death for marrying against the family's wishes, a police spokesman said Wednesday.

Nayab Haider said the two men, Ghulam Ali and Zahid Ali, were arrested from a home in the eastern Punjab province following an intensive manhunt.

Authorities arrested the woman's father after the attack, and four other people were arrested last Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record breaker

13-year-old girl conquers Everest

The 13-year-old daughter of poor Indian farmers who became the youngest girl to climb Mount Everest said Wednesday that she "shed joyful tears" at the summit after a gruelling climb across difficult terrain and personal fear.

Nepal requires climbers to be at least 16 years old to scale its peaks, but Malavath Poorna said she and a team of Nepalese guides climbed the 8,850-metre mountain on May 25 from the northern side in Tibet. There are no age restrictions in China.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finland

Five dead babies found in basement

Finnish police have arrested a 35-year-old woman on suspicion of manslaughter after finding five dead babies in an apartment building, authorities said Wednesday.

Officers found the bodies in "badly smelly packages" Tuesday in a basement cupboard of an apartment building in the city of Oulu after they were alerted to the scene by emergency services.

Leinonen said the woman couldn't give a clear motive for keeping and storing what he said appeared to be fetuses for so long. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arturo Gonzalez's pit bull, Chico Blue, was fatally shot by sheriff's deputies 18 months ago at his home in Pico Rivera, Calif. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Videos aim to teach cops to assess canine behaviour

Five-part series.
Initiative comes after study determined that majority of police shootings involve animals, usually dogs

The majority of shootings in most U.S. police departments involve animals, usually dogs, and experts say a new series of videos can help change often quick-trigger decisions fuelled by fear.

"There will be times when police need to defend themselves because they are being attacked by a dog and don't have a choice, but that is the minority of cases," said Brian Kilcommons, a Southbury, Conn., dog behaviourist and trainer.

He is featured in the five-part series that teaches officers to detect the warning signs of an aggressive dog and how to avoid using lethal force.

Efforts to change the way officers approach animals have emerged as dogs have become a central part of the American family and lawsuits have chipped away at the coffers of law enforcement agencies.

The free videos emerged from a 2011 study by a University of Illinois centre and non-profits including the National Canine Research Council, which promotes a better understanding of relationships with dogs.

The U.S. Department of Justice helped. The study found a majority of police shootings involved animals, but it's unknown how many dogs are shot nationwide every year.

Officers have a lot to process when they respond to something like a domestic violence report, but determining whether a dog is agitated shouldn't be overwhelming, said Bill Johnson, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations.

In the videos, Kilcommons teaches officers to survey canine body language and not to approach a fearful dog that's low to the ground with its tail tucked and ears flat to its head. He also says to watch for warning signs such as lunging, growling and exposed teeth.

There are ways for officers to avoid using guns, including putting an object like a trash can between them and the dog, carrying food that can be thrown as a distraction, or using pepper spray, he says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canines vs. officers

Milwaukee began tallying dog shootings in its city in 2000, in response to a lawsuit.

- **48.** Average number of dogs shot by police annually from 2000 to 2008.
- **28.** The average number of dogs shot by police after training increased.

PM restarts CETA talks before G7 summit

Stephen Harper arrived Wednesday in Brussels for the G7 summit — but his first order of business was to kick-start his stalled free-trade deal with the European Union.

The prime minister met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, about an hour prior to the official opening of the G7 summit, where the Ukraine-Russia crisis was set to dominate.

But Harper appeared eager to make progress towards getting a final text of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Harper flew to Brussels to meet Barroso in a high-profile ceremony last October to sign an agreement in principle on the deal.

But the final, lawyer-approved document remains an elusive entity as some of the major irritants that stalled the protracted four-year negotiations reared their heads yet again in recent weeks.

According to EU documents, these include a disagreement over protection of intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical sector, among other irritants.

The Harper government insists the delays are simply a matter of hammering out the precise final legal text, and are not a matter of substantive disagreement.

A stalled or scuttled deal would be politically damaging to Harper, who views a comprehensive deal with the EU's 28-country bloc to be the jewel in his crown of a series of much smaller trade agreements.

Aides to Harper, who spoke on the condition of anonymity earlier in the week, had played down any suggestion that Harper might piggyback on the G7 summit to push the trade deal.

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Pimps and johns targeted in Tories' 'made-in-Canada' prostitution bill

Justice Minister Peter MacKay takes questions from reporters on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday. The Conservative government has introduced legislation that targets johns and pimps. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legislation. New list of offences intended to reduce demand for sex services and protect sex workers: Conservatives

The Conservative government has introduced legislation to criminalize the purchase of sexual services.

The long-awaited bill would also crack down on those who reap a material benefit from prostitution.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay says the "made-in-Canada" model is aimed at targeting johns and pimps while protecting the vulnerable.

The new prostitution-related offences are intended to reduce demand for sexual services and protect those who sell such services from exploitation, as well as shield children and communities, the government says.

The bill would create new offences for:

— The purchase of sexual services and communicating in any place for that purpose.

— Receiving a financial or material benefit from the prostitution of others, including through businesses that sell the sexual services of others online or out of venues such as escort agencies, massage parlours, or strip clubs that also provide sexual services.

— Advertising the sale of sexual services in print media or on the Internet.

— Communicating for the purpose of selling sexual services in public places where a child could reasonably be expected to be present.

The legislation is the government's response to a Supreme Court of Canada decision in December that struck down key provisions of the country's prostitution laws.

While the court ruled the laws were unconstitutional, it gave the government a year to replace them.

Under the old laws, prostitution itself was legal but almost all related activities — including communicating in a public place for the purposes of prostitution, pimping and running a brothel — were criminal offences.

The new bill comes just two days after the Justice Department released the results of an online consultation that showed that a slim majority of respondents felt that buying sex should be illegal.

However, two-thirds of the more than 31,000 respondents said they thought selling sex should not be an offence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto uses tower power in branded condom rollout

Toronto unwrapped its very own city-branded condom design Wednesday, featuring the phallic point of the CN Tower and three aptly chosen city street signs: Cummer Avenue, Wood Street and Coxwell Avenue.

Toronto Public Health tweeted out the design of "condomTO" in six separate tweets, starting at 9 a.m.

A message on the condom's package reads, "No matter which way you go, put it on!"

The condom, launched by the health agency, comes two weeks before World Pride celebrations kick off in the city on June 20.

Dr. David McKeown, the city's medical officer, says the condom's main goal is to get Torontonians talking about safe sex — and using condoms.

"This is a lighthearted approach to what is a serious subject," he said. "We want to raise awareness and try something new and different to get people thinking about safer sex. We're trying to make it something that people in Toronto will talk about."

About 60 people die from HIV in Toronto annually, he added. Using condoms is an effective way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases but statistics show many people choose not to use them.

The AIDS Committee of Toronto welcomed the move by Toronto Public Health, but pointed out only men's, not women's, condoms were available.

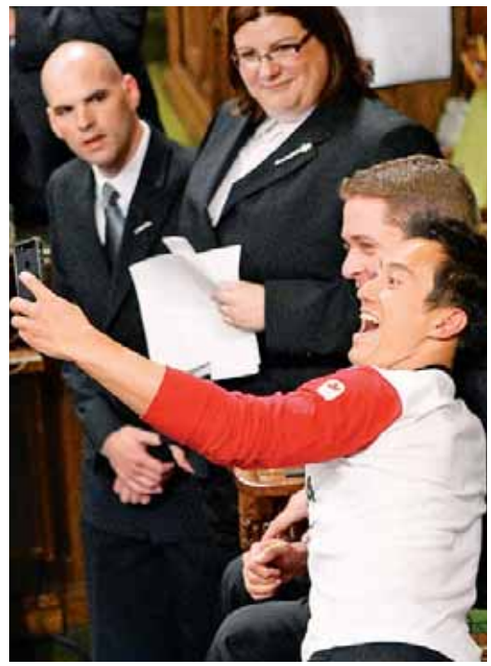
"The message doesn't start and end with condoms in a bowl," said spokesman Rafay Agha.

"But kudos to Toronto Public Health. The more safer-sex options people have, the better. It's also a great starting point for a conversation. Our symbol of the city is a phallic building." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

First of its kind

This is the first Canadian city-branded condom that McKeown is aware of.

- Other major cities in North America, including Los Angeles and New York, have their own branded condoms.



Every Chan for him-selfie

Canadian Olympic figure skater Patrick Chan takes a selfie with House Speaker Andrew Scheer as Olympic athletes were honoured in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto

Man faces charges for indecent act with cucumber

A Toronto man is facing charges after police allege he committed an indecent act in a library while holding a cucumber.

Fredrick Tennyson Davis, 49, is charged with committing an indecent act and two counts of failing to comply with probation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Florida

After pulling over detective, phoney cop in real trouble

Police say a man impersonating an officer faces charges after signalling a real detective to pull over on a road in Florida.

Authorities say 20-year-old Matthew Michael Lee McMahon activated a red and blue light Monday while driving behind an unmarked sheriff's car.

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Stabbing accusations stun girls' neighbours

'Completely normal.'
Girl and her friend, accused of stabbing victim 19 times

The site in Waukesha, Wis., where a bicyclist found a 12-year-old girl who had 19 stab wounds, is pictured. Two girls, also 12 years old, are accused of stabbing her to please a fictional online character. CARRIE ANTLFINGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neighbours of two U.S. girls accused of stabbing a friend nearly to death say they're struggling to reconcile the allegations with what they know about the 12-year-olds and their upbringings.

Prosecutors have charged the two girls in adult court with attempted homicide for allegedly stabbing a girl the same age in the woods in northern Wisconsin state.

The girls told reportedly said they conspired for months to kill the other girl in hopes of pleasing Slenderman, a fictional character they read about on a horror website.

Most residents in their neighbourhood didn't want to talk to reporters Tuesday. But neighbours who did agree to talk said the girls came from good families and that the parents were responsible guardians who doted on their children.

Emily Edwards, 15, babysat one of the girls for about two years. She told The Associated Press the girl seemed to be a well-adjusted child who was never mean or violent. She said the girl never even picked on her younger brother, and if anything acted as a peacekeeper whenever others teased him.

"She was completely normal, nothing off about her. She was very social, friendly, outgoing," Emily said.

According to prosecutors, the two girls lured the victim into the woods Saturday and stabbed her 19 times, with one of the wounds coming within a millimetre of piercing a major artery near her heart.

The AP isn't naming either girl because their cases could end up in juvenile court, where proceedings are closed to the public. The victim is identified in court documents only by her initials.

Edwards said that as far as the girl she babysat, she often saw her family laughing and smiling together. She described the girl's parents as "such nice people."

Paul Plotkin, another neighbour close to the father of one of the girls, said he was troubled by comments he's seen online suggesting the parents must have been absent, negligent, addicted to drugs or worse.

"Anyone who knows them knows these are good people, a normal middle-class family," said Plotkin, 44.

Anthony Cotton, a lawyer for one of the girls, said he would push to get her case transferred to juvenile court, where more social services and mental health treatment would be available.

"She's 12 and she has mental health issues," Cotton said. "There's no question that she needs to go to the hospital."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Somalia. 'Humanitarian crisis' looming as aid falls short, UN warns

The UN humanitarian aid chief is making an urgent appeal for $60 million over the next three months to keep Somalia from "slipping back into a major humanitarian crisis."

Valerie Amos told the UN Security Council on Wednesday that donations from the international community have dropped this year, and the trend is expected to continue in 2015.

Just 19 per cent of this year's appeal for $933 million in humanitarian aid has been funded by the international community.

The east African country has been struggling to rebuild a government after years of civil war and violence by the militant group al-Shabab.

In a sign of some confidence, the United States on Tuesday said it will appoint an ambassador to the country for the first time in more than 20 years.

Even so, the U.S. has no immediate plans to reopen its embassy in the Somali capital Mogadishu, which has been beset by violence and deadly bombings spurred by al-Shabab.

The embassy in Mogadishu closed in 1991, when Somalia's government collapsed after years of civil war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Circumcision. Botched rituals take deadly toll

The young South African thought he was going to the hills to become a man. He came back with a horrifying injury that made him an outcast.

In 2012, Asanda lost his penis to gangrene in a botched circumcision ritual performed by a traditional surgeon wielding the same spear on more than a dozen initiates.

He was an unusual case among thousands of men hospitalized after such ceremonies in past years because he broke a code of secrecy about the tradition and spoke out in protest.

Septic shock causes many fatalities. The problem is most severe in the Eastern Cape province, where nearly 500 young men have died in circumcision rituals since 2006, including 83 last year, according to the provincial health department.

Last week, the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, which promotes traditional values, announced a partnership with the state and medical professionals to educate villagers about safe circumcision.

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Court urged to bring back NYC big soda ban

16-ounce limit. Sugary drinks not the only foods contributing to illness and obesity, judges point out

New York City officials urged the state's top court on Wednesday to reinstate the city's ban on big sodas, arguing that the local board of health has authority to restrict products that make people obese and contribute to disease.

The 2012 ban against peddling sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces at restaurants, delis, movie theatres, stadiums and street carts was overturned by the lower courts the same month the ban was to take effect.

It was pushed by then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and since backed by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

A 2012 ban against sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces was overturned. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

"The largest source of added sugar in the American diet, 40 per cent of added sugar, comes from sugary drinks," Assistant Corporation Counsel Richard Dearing said.

"They're empty calories. They don't provide nutritional value.... They're not filling. What that means is when you consume calories from sugary drinks, you don't reduce other caloric consumption."

Several judges on the Court of Appeals questioned where the board would draw the line.

Judge Eugene Piggott Jr. asked whether triple-decker burgers would be next. Judge Victoria Graffeo questioned the limit in light of exclusions like mixed coffee drinks loaded with more than 800 calories.

The Court of Appeals is not expected to rule on the board's request until next month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged bribery. Venice engulfed in scandal

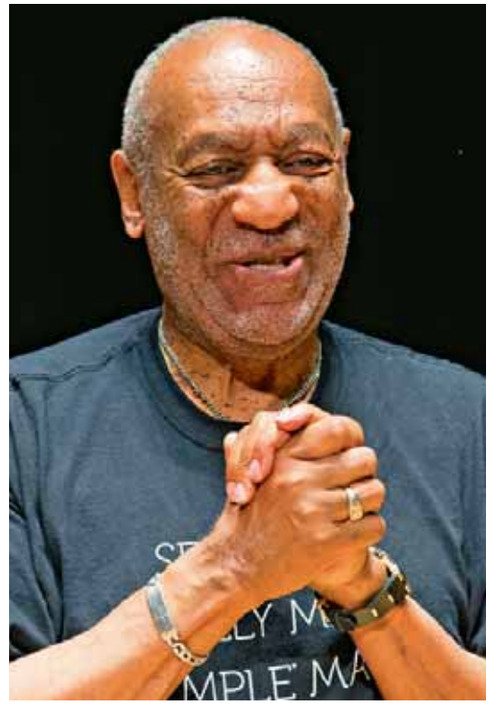
Venice's mayor and more than 30 other people were arrested Wednesday in a sweeping corruption scandal in which politicians are accused of financing election campaigns with some 25 million euros ($34 million) in bribes from the consortium building underwater barriers to protect the lagoon city from flooding.

One of a series of bribery probes into major public works projects in Italy, the web of alleged bribery revealed in Venice has many of the same characteristics as Italy's "Kickback City" scandal of 20 years ago that toppled an entire political class.

"There are even some of the same players," prosecutor Carlo Nordio told a news conference.

The head of the consortium building the flood barriers was placed under house arrest last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Saying farewell to a friend

Bill Cosby, wearing a Temple University T-shirt, speaks during a memorial service for former classmate and Philadelphia Inquirer co-owner Lewis Katz on Wednesday. Katz, 72, and six others died when his private jet crashed Saturday. MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Moncton police pursue shooting suspect after deadly rampage

Three Mounties killed, two injured.
Police were looking for Justin Bourque, 24, of Moncton, last night

RCMP in New Brunswick posted this photo of suspect Justin Bourque on Twitter. TWITTER

Heavily armed police in Moncton look for a gunman Wednesday night following the shooting deaths of three fellow officers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Three RCMP officers were shot and killed in Moncton, N.B., and two others were injured as the Mounties conducted a manhunt across the city's north end Wednesday night for a shooter.

Shortly before midnight, police said they believed the suspect was at large in the Pinehurst subdivision area of the city.

RCMP in New Brunswick said on its Twitter feed that they were looking for 24-year-old Justin Bourque of Moncton. The police force tweeted an image of a suspect wearing military camouflage and wielding two guns.

The RCMP released its first information on the shooting at about 9:15 p.m. through Twitter.

It confirmed the deaths of the three officers on Twitter at 11 p.m., tweeting: "3 officers mortally wounded by shooter. 2 officers sustained non life threatening injuries. Shooter still actively sought."

The Horizon Health Network, the province's largest health authority, said on its Twitter feed that two patients were taken to the Moncton Hospital with gunshot wounds.

Const. Damien Theriault said police were urging people in the area to stay inside their homes and lock their doors.

Drivers were also asked to stay out of the area.

"We're advising people to stay inside until further notice," Theriault said.

Federal Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney tweeted, "Shocked by the tragedy in #Moncton. Thoughts and prayers with our frontline @ rcmpgrcpolice officers and families."

Theriault said the search for the suspect was concentrated in the area of Ryan Street and Hildegarde Road.

His voicemail later said that the RCMP were searching for the suspect in the area of the Moncton Coliseum.

Sean Gallacher, who lives near the area where police were concentrating their search, said he heard what he now believes were gunshots but initially thought his daughter had dropped some toys.

Danny Leblanc, 42, said he saw the shooter in the distance Wednesday evening, wearing a camouflage outfit and standing in the middle of the street with his gun pointed at police cars.

The construction worker said he believed it was an RCMP officer until he heard a burst of automatic gunfire coming from the man's gun.

"That guy was standing on the road afterwards and he was looking towards us," he said.

He said he quickly retreated into his home and remained there with his family and young children. At one point a neighbour posted on social media that their kitchen window was shattered by gunfire. Word that police had been killed has shocked the city, said Leblanc.

"It's devastating. I don't know if he was on a hunt for them, or what," he said.

Leblanc said few people on his normally quiet street were sleeping as they awaited word at midnight on whether arrests had been made.

The Horizon Health Network, the province's largest health authority, said it was limiting access to the health centre.

Premier David Alward offered his thoughts and prayers to those affected by the shooting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tens of thousands of people attend a candlelight vigil at Victoria Park in Hong Kong Wednesday to mark the 25th anniversary of the June 4, 1989, Chinese military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relatives mourn Tiananmen victims amid tight security

Clampdown more restrictive than usual. Dozens of dissidents and critics detained, under house arrest or sent out of the city

Yin Min said she held the ashes of her 19-year-old son and wept as she marked 25 years since he was killed in the crackdown by Chinese tanks and troops on protests at Tiananmen Square. Outside, guards kept a close eye on her home while police blanketed central Beijing to block any public commemoration of one of the darkest chapters in recent Chinese history.

"I don't even have one bit of power. Why must we be controlled so strictly this year?" Yin said in a telephone interview. "I looked at his ashes, I looked at his old things, and I cried bitterly."

Police have kept a round-the-clock surveillance of Yin's home since April, she said, and relatives' hopes of gathering and holding a public commemoration were dashed.

China allows no public discussion of the events of June 3-4, 1989, when soldiers backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers fought their way into the heart of Beijing, killing hundreds, possibly thousands, of unarmed protesters and onlookers.

On Wednesday, scores of police and paramilitary troops patrolled the vast plaza and surrounding streets in Beijing's heart, stopping vehicles and demanding identification from passers-by. Chinese censors scrubbed domestic blogs and social media websites of comments marking the crackdown.

Authorities allowed about a dozen relatives of four people killed in the crackdown to pay their respects at a cemetery in Beijing, but they were under police escort and were watched by several dozen plainclothes officers.

The relatives laid flowers and bowed three times as is customary in Chinese mourning, Zhang said, and one of them read from a prepared text.

"A quarter of a century has passed since the June 4, 1989, massacre. In these endless 25 years, not a moment has gone by that we didn't miss you," said the text.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paying their respects

"Our tears have run dry, our voices are already hoarse.... With the passage of time, we will bury our sorrow deep in our hearts...."

Prepared text read by relatives paying their respects at a cemetery in Beijing to four people killed in the Tiananmen crackdown.

A protester holds a model of a tank covered in red paint to represent blood during a protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday to mark the 25th anniversary of the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square. VINCENT THIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relatives' demands ignored

The Chinese government has largely ignored relatives' demands for an admission of wrongdoing and for a complete, formal accounting of the crackdown and the number of casualties.

- Beijing's verdict is that the student-led protests aimed to topple the ruling Communist Party and plunge China into chaos.
- Protest leaders said they were seeking broader democracy and freedom, along with an end to corruption and favouritism within the party.

Hong Kong

Large crowds pack park for night vigil

The silence on the mainland about the anniversary of a pivotal event that shocked the world contrasted with boisterous commemorations in Hong Kong.

Large crowds gathered Wednesday night in the city's Victoria Park for a candlelight vigil to remember the Tiananmen victims, holding candles aloft that turned the vast area into a sea of flickering light.

Activists laid a wreath at a makeshift memorial as the names and biographical details of people killed in the crackdown were read out. Organizers said more than 180,000 people took part, with many overflowing into the streets around the park's main entrance.

In Beijing, reporters near Tiananmen Square were told to leave following the daily crack-of-dawn flag-raising ceremony and there were no signs of demonstrations or public commemorations.

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Caitlan Coleman and Joshua Boyle are seen in an undated photo, top, and in a frame grab from one of two videos sent to Coleman's father in which the couple asks for help to be freed from Taliban captors. COLEMAN FAMILY PHOTO

Videos show couple that disappeared held captive

Taliban. U.S. woman and her Canadian husband travelling in Afghanistan went missing 20 months ago

The family of a pregnant American woman who went missing in Afghanistan in late 2012 with her Canadian husband received two videos last year in which the couple asked the U.S. government to help free them from Taliban captors, The Associated Press has learned.

The videos, each under two minutes long, offer the only clues about what happened to Caitlan Coleman and Joshua Boyle after they lost touch with their families 20 months ago while travelling near Kabul.

The video files were emailed to Coleman's father last July and September by an Afghan man who identified himself as having ties to the Taliban but who has been out of contact for several months. In one video, a subdued Coleman appeals for help.

"I would ask that my family and my government do everything that they can to bring my husband, child and I to safety and freedom," the 28-year-old says while seated beside her husband, whose beard is long and untrimmed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Child's fate unknown

Caitlan Coleman, 28, refers to her child in the videos, but no child is shown.

- The grandparents say they don't know the name or gender of the child, who would be about 18 months old.

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See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app for more photos of the St. Regis hotel's swankiest amenities.

Get white-glove hotel service ... for a mere $21,500 per night

The Abu Dhabi Suite at the St. Regis in Abu Dhabi, which sells for a nightly rate of $21,500 US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lifestyles of the rich.
As the 99% book rooms on Airbnb, more hotels are catering to the 1%

Private elevators, personal shopping assistants, six-bedroom suites with their own postal codes. Even helipads. This is what the super-rich have come to expect from hotels.

For others, vacation now means renting someone's apartment, a spare room, maybe just a couch — anything to save on the cost of a hotel.

As the gap between the wealthiest travellers and everyone else has widened, so has the way people are experiencing vacations. The wealthy are looking for ever-more pampering. Many others are seeking new ways to economize.

And the lodging industry is adapting — at both the high and low ends — to meet the diverging needs.

Luxury hotels are catering to financial elites from Russia, China, Brazil or the Middle East who now routinely hop around the world and don't mind dropping $20,000 US a night for a glamorous accommodation.

During the Great Recession, many resorts dropped "resort and spa" from their name. The idea was to appeal to corporate organizers who didn't want trips to seem extravagant. Excess now appears back in style.

With the recently opened St. Regis Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, architects considered how much privacy to provide its most sumptuous suites, says Paul James, head of Starwood Hotels and Resorts' luxury properties.

"Part of the Abu Dhabi conversation was 'Where does the helicopter land?"' James says.

More of the wealthiest travellers are now booking on shorter notice — sometimes less than a day. The St. Regis Mardavall in Mallorca, Spain, got a call from a 30-something German asking about the local weather. The receptionist reported 85 degrees and blue skies. The traveller booked the largest available suite and said he'd arrive in an hour.

He made the call from his private jet circling above Madrid.

The elite traveller's experience was precisely what the Rosewood London had in mind when it opened its Grand Manor House Wing in December. The six-bedroom complex is $42,000 US a night and offers three living rooms, a library and a dining table for eight. It has its own street entrance and private elevator. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fighting fraud. America follows Canada's lead with microchip credit cards

Sam's Club on Wednesday said it will become the first mass retailer in the U.S. to offer a credit card using a fraud-deterring microchip.

The warehouse club, owned by Wal-Mart Stores Inc., said the card will be co-branded with MasterCard and will be available this month.

Visa and MasterCard are pushing for the adoption of credit cards that use microchips rather than the black magnetic strips found on most cards. The card processors say microchips have helped reduce fraud elsewhere, including in Canada, Mexico and most of Western Europe.

The chip technology hasn't been widely adopted in the U.S. because of costs and disputes over how the network would operate. But the disputes have now largely been resolved. Several recent data breaches at retailers — including a massive one of Target's computer systems last year — helped garner support among retailers for cards using microchips. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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The sour tale of *the* Burt of Burt's Bees

Got stung. Hippie Burt Shavitz, now 79 and back in Maine, says he got pushed out of the company he co-founded

Conventional wisdom suggests the Burt behind Burt's Bees left the company after he became disillusioned with the corporate world in North Carolina and wanted to return to his solitary life in Maine.

The reality, Burt Shavitz says, is that he was forced out by co-founder Roxanne Quimby after he had an affair with an employee.

So the man on the Burt's Bees logo that promises "Earth-friendly natural personal care products" ended up with 37 acres in Maine, and an undisclosed sum of money.

The reclusive beekeeper whose simple life became complicated by his status as a corporate icon is now the subject of a documentary, Burt's Buzz, which opens Friday in cities including New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Phoenix and Cleveland.

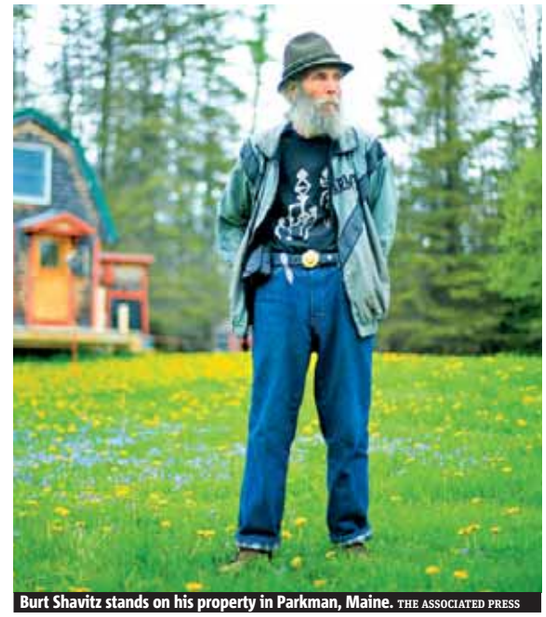
Interviewed by The Associated Press on his land in Maine, Shavitz, 79, declined to discuss his relationship with Quimby.

He was a hippie making a living by selling honey when his life was altered by a chance encounter with a hitchhiking Quimby. She was a single mother and a back-to-the-lander who impressed Shavitz with her ingenuity and self-sufficiency.

She began making products from his beeswax, and they became partners. An image of Burt's face — and his untamed beard — was featured on labels.

The partnership ended on a sour note after the business moved in 1994 to North Carolina, where it continued to expand before Shavitz was given the boot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Burt Shavitz stands on his property in Parkman, Maine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAME OF BLEEDING RAINBOWS & BAD ACCENTS

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Game of Thrones is one of the most intensely loved shows in the history of television, which is interesting for a show that does not love you back.

The sword-and-sorcery-and-rape-and-decapitation fantasy series has its moments of joy and hope, but they're mostly there so they can be snatched away from you, like a child's toy, your shocked face part of the latest YouTube reaction montage.

Author George R.R. Martin wrote the books the series is based on, so he can be blamed for most of the emotional wallop. Then the show producers looked at a book series full of sexual assault, decapitation, castration and people getting slaughtered at weddings and said, "Hey, could be worse. Let's make it worse!"

It all came to a head in the most recent episode as the emotional and physical pain combined perfectly when (spoiler!) a much-loved character had his skull slowly crushed ON SCREEN, destroying hope and brains in equal measure. (Double spoiler!: He died.)

The impact of that scene had me thinking about what Martin could have done with some of television's most famous programs.

If all TV were like Game of Thrones …

* If Martin had written **Seinfeld**, the Master of My Domain episode would have been about who can go the longest without losing their genitals.

* If Martin had written **Reading Rainbow**, the theme song would have been, "Butterfly in the sky/Loses its wings and dies/Dare to look/Within my book/A Bleeding Rainbow (death by crossbow!)"

* If Martin had written **WKRP,** Les Nessman's cuts would have been fatal.

* If Martin had written **The Mary Tyler Moore Show**, Mary would have thrown her hat in the air and been hit by a truck.

* If Martin had written **The Wire**, the mayor of Baltimore would have been a conniving narcissist with unbridled lust for power and women, played by an Irish actor with a deeply unconvincing accent.

* If Martin had written **Friends**, one episode would have been called The One About the Incestuous Rape Over the Barely Warm Corpse of Their Child.

* If Martin had written **The X-Files**, Scully would say there are no such thing as dragons while a dragon was eating her.

* If Martin had written **Freaks and Geeks**, it would be Carrie.

* If Martin had written **The Daily Show with Jon Stewart**, your Moment of Zen would be the anguished screams of the dying.

* If Martin had written **The Larry Sanders Show**, it would be exactly the same. He loves that guy.

As you can see, I'm sort of obsessed. I feel like if the show has gotten us this invested, it must take a happy turn soon, right? I've got a good feeling about next week. And if the good guys don't start winning, I swear, heads will roll.

ZOOM

But is it cat?

Felines: 'The universal mode of communication'

SVETLANA PETROVA
Artist based in St. Petersburg, Russia

After her mother died, artist Svetlana Petrova went into a deep depression. A friend suggested dressing up Zarathustra, the kitty Petrova inherited from her mom, in costumes for a photo session as a pick-me-up. But the cat was so fat that he couldn't fit into anything. Instead, Petrova photoshopped him into works of art. Metro sat down with Petrova to get more details.

Are you a big fan of memes?
I love the concept. If I were to return to university I'd write a thesis on it. But I want to make memes that are pretty. Many memes are just plain ugly.

Why do cats have such appeal? Cats are the universal mode of communication. We may all speak different languages but we're all lovers of cats. They're a way of bringing us together to do good. For example, two years ago there was Hank, a cat that ran for the U.S. senate. For his campaign, I helped design some fake dollar bills with his picture on them. The project raised a lot of money for animal charities in the U.S. and Russia. So we managed to do good, not through people but through a cat. METRO

The Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci gets a ginger fat cat addition. Below: catified versions of Portrait of an Unknown Woman in Russian Costume by Ivan Argunov and Bogatyrs by Viktor Vasnetsov. COURTESY SVETLANA PETROVA

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MetroTube

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Man goes in search of lost time on a motorbike

REBECCA WILLIAMS
readers@metronews.ca

Every corner of the world is more connected than ever, but what about our connection to the past?

Douglas Gautraud's romanticizing of another time and his ties to his grandfathers left him wanting something outside of living life online. So, much to his mother's chagrin, he bought a motorcycle.

What follows is an endearing story about how two wheels and an engine help a man explore his relationship with his elders, and how it became his "Mom's Motorcycle." (Via Douglas Gautraud/YouTube)

SCREENGRAB

metro

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 27

Artist's paintings a journal of parenting an autistic child

Deeply personal. In a new exhibit, David Cheney documents his family's journey over two decades

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

Calgary artist David Cheney's new exhibition, Painting Autism, is inspired by his daughter Eva. It opens Saturday at ArtPoint Gallery in Ramsay.
LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

Calgary artist David Cheney is hoping his latest exhibition will shed some light on what it's like to raise a severely autistic child.

Painting Autism: Two Decades Painting About My Daughter features 35 drawings and watercolours by Cheney, who drew his first sketch of daughter Eva when she was only a month old.

She continued to inspire his work for the next 20 years, and now many of those paintings and sketches will be on display for the first time at ArtPoint Gallery starting Saturday.

"I've wanted to show these paintings for years now," says Cheney. "It kind of gives a parent's perspective of autism and the challenges they face as well as the joys."

The exhibition consists of three series of paintings in addition to several sketches as well as a handful of pieces painted by Eva herself. These paintings be sold with partial proceeds going to Autism Calgary.

The Eva Series features portraits of Cheney's daughter between the ages of five and seven with text from her medical reports and diagnostic tests layered on top. Pine trees and winter scenes dominate the second set of seven paintings, expressing feelings of loneliness and helplessness experienced by many parents of autistic children.

"It can be like being in a cold winter's night and not knowing if you're going to get through it," he says.

The third series, titled Eva Turns 18, is made up of large-scale paintings of Cheney's daughter, who is now 21 and living in a group home.

The size of the pieces was a deliberate attempt to communicate just how large autism looms in the lives of families affected by it.

"It becomes larger than life," says Cheney.

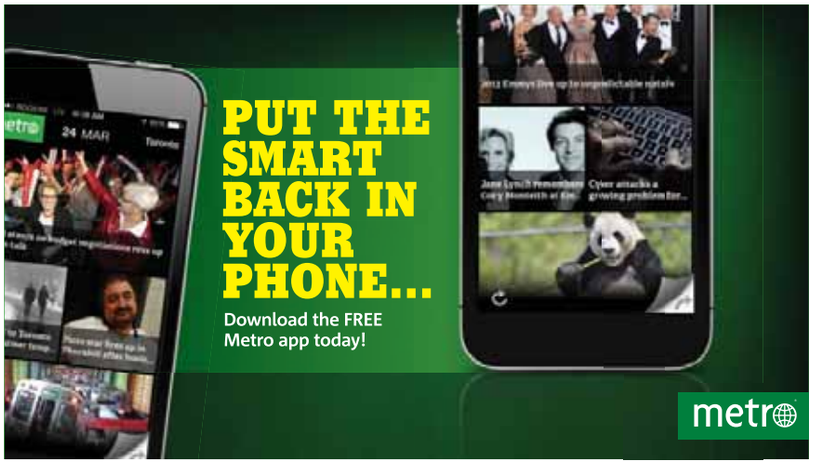
"It's all you ever think about. You don't have a life, you just have autism."

Cheney, who graduated from ACAD in 1984 and discovered watercolour painting during a trip to Greece in 1987, says painting has been cathartic and helped him deal with the stress that comes with raising an autistic child.

He admits he's a little nervous to share his deeply personal work with the public. "I'm a graphic designer by day and one of my co-workers said, 'That's awfully brave of you,'" he says.

"I've never shown many of these works, so as it gets closer, I'm getting more nervous. I'm nervous about what people will think … I'm presenting a different view of autism than what is traditionally shown in the media."

Painting Autism shows from June 7 until June 28 at ArtPoint Gallery, 1139 Adelaide St. S.E.



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Listen to what Bill Paxton has to say about his character in Edge of Tomorrow.

Bill Paxton lets loose about new film, everything else

Edge of Tomorrow.
Actor rambles happily about new sci-fi flick, his latest project, and that infamous Aliens line

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Tom Cruise, left, and Bill Paxton in a scene from Edge of Tomorrow. DAVID JAMES/AP PHOTO/WARNER BROS

The first thing you learn when you talk to Bill Paxton is that the man likes to talk. When they connect us on the phone, he's already in mid-sentence, using my name as a jumping-off point to talk about Australian folk legend Ned Kelly. I learned quickly it's best to just let the Edge of Tomorrow star go.

What he's saying when the phone connects:
The wild colonial boy! Ned Kelly, Ned Kelly, line one! Get out of here, you're the wild colonial boy!

Why we're not speaking in person:
We're talking from Durango, Mexico — old Mexico. The land time forgot. This is a really old, old town, and I didn't realize much about it aside from the fact that it was a famous movie town for John Wayne and Sam Peckinpah in days of yo. Yo, what's up? My .45-calibre pistol! (laughs). It's a great, old historic Spanish town, and we're all staying here. We just started shooting Texas Rising, a new miniseries for History. It's kind of their first big followup to Hatfields and McCoys. It's the same producers, but this time we're helmed by the great Roland Joffe. Really digging his chili.

On finally seeing Edge of Tomorrow — but in Mexico:
What I've heard is it's playing like gangbusters. I haven't seen it. I'm going to see it. Down here it's called Al filo del mañana. Sounds like "I'll feel you up tomorrow."

On the film coming out on the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion:
Weirdly enough, I think that fell on a coincidence. It's just one of those things. When they're picking those dates, they're not picking them for historical significance. They pick them for maximum commercial impact. With X-Men and Godzilla on one side and Guardians of the Galaxy on the other, you've got to get in when you can. I think the reason Warner Bros. is downplaying that is out of respect. This has a very similar kind of set-up, but I think they didn't want to exploit that fact. You've got this alien horde who have taken Europe, much like the blitzkrieg of the Nazis, and now the Allies — or the Federation, I forget what the hell we're called — we're spearheading a counter-invasion out of England, which of course means Normandy. I could see my character, who's a career soldier and steeped in military history, kind of getting off on the fact that tomorrow we're invading France again. That wasn't lost on me and Tom [Cruise] while we were shooting it, but it just happened to fall on that date.

On the legacy of his "Game over, man, game over!" line from Aliens:
Hell, that's one I'll never live down. It's certainly a beloved character, and it's amazing to think that after all this time that each generation discovers Aliens and embraces it. It's kind of like the Wizard of Oz of sci-fi movies. You might want to skew that a little different. It's nice when you can satisfy the hardest critic of all, and that's time.

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Doug Liman. Director says Warner Bros. has the guts to make original films

Edge of Tomorrow director Doug Liman. GETTY IMAGES

Eighteen years after his Swingers debut, Bourne Identity and Mr. and Mrs. Smith director Doug Liman is back for another inventive action romp with Edge of Tomorrow, starring Tom Cruise as a cowardly soldier stuck fighting an alien invasion again and again in a Groundhog Day-like loop. We grabbed Liman for a quick chat, where it quickly became clear he has no interest in holding his tongue — even if it means calling out former bosses.

When you're filming multiple takes of repeated versions of scenes, how do you keep your wits about you?
The irony is that we do this as filmmakers all the time anyhow. Maybe Clint Eastwood stops after take one, but the rest of us mortals probably average seven takes. I'm belittling the challenges of it because I am a perfectionist. I wanted Bill Paxton's performance, for example, to be identical until the moment where Tom did something different — the exact same performance, not just the same words. The only way to really do that is to film somebody like Bill Paxton with multiple cameras, each one earmarked for a different part of the film. We're human beings, we can't actually do the identical performance twice in a row. We can do something really close, but if you're talking about every mannerism, every gesture, every hair on the top of your head ... I mean, if there's any actor out there who could do it, it actually would be Tom Cruise. The irony is that he was the one actor for whom that wasn't required in this movie.

Filming Edge of Tomorrow

"I'm not the guy who's normally complimenting a studio, but they were hugely supportive along every step of the way, whereas on the Bourne Identity, all Universal was trying to do was make the film into a generic movie that felt like other spy movies they had seen."

Doug Liman, film director
on working with Warner Bros. on his latest movie

I imagine the press tour experience can have a lot of parallels to this movie.
When you do press for a movie like Edge of Tomorrow, people are always asking you, "If you could go back and change any day, what would you change?" You know, lame questions like that. Maybe they're not lame, but when you hear it over and over again, you start to have a little of the experience Tom's character is having.

This feels refreshingly original for a studio film coming out during the summer.
It's hard to release original movies, right? You have to educate an audience as to what Edge of Tomorrow is. You don't have to educate them about what X-Men is or what Bourne 5 is. It's why basically only Warner Bros. is making these kinds of original movies. They have the guts to bet on a filmmaker — to bet on Alfonso Cuaron with Gravity, bet on [Christopher] Nolan with Inception. It gives me a huge amount of respect for Warner Bros. ... They actually want to make original movies. They themselves want to be proud of the movies they make. And I think they've figured out a formula to do that and make money. And keep their jobs.

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS

John Mayer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

In post-breakup, Mayer becomes muse to Katy Perry

At this point, we'll soon be able to put out a compilation album of songs written about John Mayer. His most recent ex, Katy Perry, tells Cosmopolitan that fans shouldn't be surprised to hear some tunes on forthcoming albums inspired by their breakup. "There's no bad blood, but I'm sure there will be inspired songs," she tells the magazine.

Taylor Swift, another of Mayer's exes, also penned a tune or two about the singer.

Mayer, for his part, isn't too worried about the output. "I have super-strength for gang-ups," he tells TMZ. "I'm fine. That's what you're supposed to do, man. You're supposed to write songs. You're just not supposed to tell everybody you're doing it."

Nick Loeb's pals couldn't be happier about split from Sofia Vergara

Last month, Sofia Vergara announced the end of her two-year engagement to Nick Loeb, and apparently his friends are thrilled by the news, according to Page Six. "I'm happy to see her go. Good riddance," one of businessman Loeb's pals said, shooting down claims that Loeb was using the relationship to ride Vergara's coattails.

According to the friend, the Modern Family actress was "rude" during group dinners, ignoring others and constantly checking her phone and Twitter account. "She only joins the conversation if it's about her."

Sofia Vergara

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

50 blames his terrible pitching on too much hand practice

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York City

50 Cent is sure living life to the fullest this summer. First he throws the worst first pitch ever at a Mets game. Then he has a rival robbed onstage. Now he says he masturbated so much he hurt his bones.

No, not that bone.

Fiddy is blaming that dismal first pitch on a sort of repetitive stress injury. In his Reddit AMA Tuesday, he said, "I have a skeletal muscle injury from excessive masturbation so take it easy lol."

Will do! Then again, most of us do not have to pitch at Major League baseball games, so we are free to abuse ourselves as extravagantly as we choose, no matter how fraught with peril our technique may be.

In that same AMA, 50 Cent also said he used to bench press 405 pounds, so perhaps the injury had other causes. He also showed his nerdy side: When asked what would be his dream movie role, he replied, "One of the Marvel franchise. Or Star Wars."

Just be careful how many times you swing the light sabre.

Kourtney Kardashian

Kourtney Kardashian is expecting, many selfies to follow

The Kardashian-Jenner family may still be on a high from Kim's wedding, but now they have another reason to celebrate. Kourtney and boyfriend Scott Disick are reportedly expecting their third child. Us Weekly is reporting that she is a few months along, and you can count on the mag — as well as other tabloids — to document her ever-growing bump throughout the coming months.

So far, the couple and the Kardashian clan haven't officially announced the pregnancy in the press or on social media. But you know this family can't keep quiet for long.

Kardashian and Disick have two children together already.

Twitter

@samantharonson
The guy down the street listens to talk radio with this front door open, like it's his job to scare the kids in the neighbourhood.

@SethMacFarlane
We are so lucky that the great escape artists like Harry Houdini aren't also serial killers who can't be locked up.

@ChloeGMoretz
up till 2 writing school essay before my press day tomorrow

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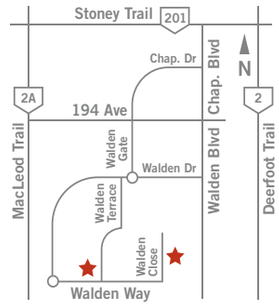

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More pledges, more product

Net those customers.
Fashion designers are turning to crowdfunding to boost brand buzz, profile and bottom line

Sunny Fong recently reached out to online donors to expand his VAWK label. In a video on his Indiegogo fundraising page, Fong appealed for help to stage his World MasterCard Fashion Week runway show in Toronto in March as well as aid to launch his label's first online store. KEITH BEATY / TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dylan Uscher works mainly with independent boutiques to feature his creations, but the designer hopes that crowdfunding will help elevate his label from budding brand to booming success.

The self-taught American designer recently moved back to Boston after eight years in Toronto where he launched Dylanium Knits in 2010.

Uscher has partnered with Luevo — a Canadian crowdfunding platform for designers — to help pre-sell his fall collection of knitwear inspired by Florentine architecture. His online campaign ends June 15.

"It's always a struggle when you're an independent business owner because you have to work really hard to get the very little that you have," Uscher said. "This just seemed like a really great outlet to try and get some new sales."

All items in his collection featured on Luevo are 15 per cent less than the suggested retail price.

And Uscher will only produce them if the products reach designated targets among customers who've pledged to purchase the designs, which include scarves, a slouch hat and cape.

"Instead of using hypothetical market research or numbers that someone else has designed, you can put your own products out there and really test ... what products are going to work and what colours work and what doesn't," Uscher said.

"I think that's the really interesting way to approach it without having to go through all of the process of producing the items yourself and hoping that they sell."

Luevo co-founder Ana Caracaleanu said the site launched with its first designers in March and plans to keep the number of labels featured in their "curated marketplace" to under 10 for now, with campaigns of 30 to 45 days.

Luevo takes a 15 per cent commission from successfully funded projects but also works to support designers in other ways such as editing news releases and producing written content, she added.

"For the designers, the value that we bring is our technology to crowdsource items that are not yet produced. They don't have to pull the inventory," Caracaleanu said. "They could use us as a step in growing their businesses or scaling up, and then taking their productions to a larger site where they may be requested to have ... the inventory to put their items there."

Christopher Charlesworth is co-founder of HiveWire, a crowdfunding and crowdsourcing solutions provider. He isn't surprised to see designers pursuing crowdfunding as capital- and buzz-building strategy.

"We think there's a really unique opportunity for not only startup entrepreneurs but specifically for fashion designers because they can present truly unique wares that are literally unavailable quite often in any other place.

"For many startup designers, they don't have access to the traditional distribution channels. Crowdfunding allows them to connect directly with a unique audience that is potentially interested in their goods."

The platform also offers the opportunity to take risks with designs they might not be able to produce when dealing with a mainstream chain, Charlesworth noted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THIS EXTER SLOUCH HAT IN SILVER FROM DYLANIUM KNITS RETAILS FOR $105 BUT IS CURRENTLY SELLING ON LUEVO FOR $89.

The pros and cons of the crowdsourcing concept

Darren Meister, an associate professor of business at Western University in London, Ont., said he thinks a bigger risk from a fashion perspective is the ability to see the designs — and potential interest from consumers — posted online for all to see. That includes major retailers who may jump on creating their own versions.

- Yet Meister said he also sees the possibility of rewards for emerging designers using the platform to make their mark, and some sales in the process.
- What the crowdfunding model allows you is to try a more things, get more immediate feedback and improve your designs, he said. "If I'm a designer and I put up 20 designs and I see these three are the ones that are catching on, I'm probably going to focus on those three."

E-xclusivity

"We think there's a really unique opportunity for not only startup entrepreneurs but specifically for fashion designers because they can present truly unique wares that are literally unavailable quite often in any other place."

Christopher Charlesworth
Co-founder of HiveWire, a crowdfunding and crowdsourcing solutions provider

ELI3

PLUS HOMES

The best of the west: Killer Fish Tacos

Lunch or dinner. Nothing screams summer more than fresh fruit, and this recipe takes nature's and mixes it with crispy fish

"I've always adjusted this recipe according to what fish is readily available. In New York, I used snapper, and in Texas, I used bass," writes Lisa Ahier in her book The Sobo Cookbook.

"Here in B.C., salmon and halibut have become my all-time favourites. This recipe was featured in The Best American Recipes 2000, edited by Fran McCullough and Suzanne Hamlin, and in The Gourmet Cookbook, edited by Ruth Reichl."

1. Prepare the fresh fruit salsa.

2. Cut the salmon and halibut into 1-inch cubes and season with salt.

3. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and sauté for 1 minute. Add the fish and fry for about 3 minutes, until just cooked Add the chipotle chilies and sauté for 2 or 3 more minutes. Remove from the heat.

4. Fill the taco shells halfway with the fish mixture, then top with the salsa. Serve immediately, two tacos per person.

Fresh Fruit Salsa

This salsa should reflect the season, so don't be a slave to the recipe. I mix it up all the time, combining fruits like peaches and blueberries with watermelon, or pineapple with avocado. Buy what's fresh.

1. Combine all ingredients and refrigerate until ready to use. This salsa will stand up for about 24 hours, after which time the fruit begins to break down.

This recipe serves eight. JEREMY KORESKI

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Ingredients

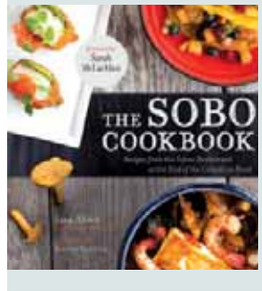
- Fresh Fruit Salsa (see below)
- 1 lb wild salmon, boneless and skinless
- 1 lb halibut, bonelesss and skinless
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 cup small-diced red onion (about 1 onion)
- 1/2 cup puréed canned chipotle chilies in adobo sauce
- 16 crispy hard taco shells

Fresh Fruit Salsa

- 4 kiwi fruits, diced small
- 1/2 pineapple, diced
- 1 mango, diced small
- 1 small papaya, diced small
- 2 avocados, diced small
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Cookbook of the Week

The B.C. coast comes to your home



Sophisticated Bohemian (Sobo) has gone from food truck to destination restaurant in Tofino, B.C. to a cookbook. Lisa Ahier (the restaurant's chef and owner) has teamed up with Andrew Morrison (a food writer) for a release that focuses on locally sourced, seasonally inspired ingredients — just like the restaurant that inspired it. Among the 100 recipes included are: Crab and Goat Cheese Wontons, BBQ Bison Flank Streak, Thai Chicken in Roti, Mascarpone Cheesecake and more.

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Turf the mower and get a bit wild

Allowing a lawn to naturalize rather than constantly maintaining a traditional turf lawn is an alternative some experts recommend. CHRISTIAN BARNARD LAND STUDIOS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let nature have its way with your lawn.
Wildflowers, native species are alternatives to traditional grass turf

It's the time of year when homeowners devote countless hours to keeping their lawns lush and green only to have watering restrictions imposed by many municipalities later in the season — causing lawns to dry out and even turn brown.

All that time and labour invested in keeping a lawn green with sometimes a disappointing outcome is leading many homeowners to consider alternatives.

Christian Barnard, owner of Victoria's Christian Barnard Land Studio, says many of his clients are beginning to ask him about options other than traditional turf.

Biodiversity

"I think a lot of the clients I have now are looking for something that is more biodiverse, because they equate turf with high resource input," says Barnard. "When homeowners think of turf, they think of lawn mowers and Weed Eaters, and so they should to a certain degree." One of his clients trained dogs in her 15-by-15-metre plot of grass. In her case turf was never going to be a long-lasting or easy-care option, and he recommended artificial or synthetic turf.

Synthetic turf

"Synthetic turf has come a long, long way, and it is amazing how real it can look. But if I had my way I tend to steer a lot of my clients into a more biodiverse option for turf," he says.

Wild flowers

Barnard recommends to a lot of clients to let their turf lawns naturalize, which means reducing the mowing and trimming, and allowing native wildflowers to return. He also uses a wildflower seed mix instead of turf.

Embrace weeds

With 171 municipalities across Canada, and all of Ontario and Quebec, banning pesticide and herbicide use, a certified horticulturalist says homeowners have to develop a tolerance for weeds in their lawns.

"People are looking at their lawns and what was the status quo and realizing they can't have the green weed-free lawn anymore, and looking for alternatives," says Jason Erb, owner of Victoria's The Gardeners of Oliphant.

Garden beds

The easiest alternative for homeowners looking to move away from turf is to reduce the overall amount. Erb says this can be done by increasing the size of garden beds to cut down on the amount of lawn.

Hardscaping

Introducing hardscaping like patios and pathways is another option for reducing lawn space, and Erb says pathways can add flow to a backyard.

Grow edibles

Erb encourages homeowners to carve out segments of a large turf lawn to create raised beds and plant fruit trees and even berry bushes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greener than grass

"One man's weed is another man's flower."
Christian Barnard, owner of Victoria, B.C.'s Christian Barnard Land Studio

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MAKE YOUR SPRING EXTRA GREEN

DONATE CLOTHES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AT VALUE VILLAGE

Are you looking for more ways to contribute positively to the environment in your everyday life? Shop second-hand.

The clothing you wear and give away can make a big impact on the environment. On average, each North American throws away more than 30 kilograms (68 pounds) of clothing and textiles each year.

The good news is that nearly 100 per cent of that is reusable or recyclable. So this season while you are combing through your closet, packing away your sweaters and getting out those shorts and T-shirts, make your spring extra green by donating your clothes and household items at Value Village.

"Donating the clothes you don't need anymore is a simple, easy way for anyone to go green in their everyday lives," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "It might seem like a small contribution, but over time one person can make a really big difference."

Value Village is one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world, keeping more than 294,000 metric tonnes (approximately 650 million pounds — that's the size of two cruise ships) of quality goods from landfills by selling reusable items in-store and responsibly recycling items unsuitable for resale.

CONTRIBUTED

Last year, Value Village repurposed 329 million tops, 59 million pairs of shoes, 114 million pairs of pants and 28 million coats.

Of course, second-hand shoppers are just as important as donors. Visiting your local thrift store is a great way to find good quality, one-of-a-kind items for excellent prices. Shoppers can look good and go green at the same time.

"Value Village works with community partners like Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Canadian Diabetes Association to keep goods out of landfills and give pre-loved clothing a brand new life," Shumpert says. "You never know what treasures you'll find — thrift shopping makes recycling fun."

For more, visit valuevillage.com.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Make room for your fresh new finds by cleaning out the old clothes you don't wear anymore. Value Village pays local non-profits every time you donate, helping to support their programs and services within the community.

"Our goal at Value Village is to support our communities across Canada," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "We consider community investment an essential component of our business."

Over the past 10 years, Value Village has purchased more than $1.5 billion of goods from its partners, turning otherwise unused items into sustainable funding that supports the non-profit's vital community programs and services.

Helping out the community — now that's truly stylish.

Dig through fashion gold mines

Unique style is a coveted quality. This is true now more than ever thanks to street style blogs like the Sartorialist, Street Peeper, Face Hunter, and many others.

"Second-hand shopping has become the fashionista's secret weapon," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "You never know what you're going to find there, and sometimes it's a gold mine."

Here's how to find your style at Value Village:

LOOK FOR HIGH-QUALITY MATERIALS

The fabrics you choose will make a difference in the longevity of your garments. Keep your eyes open for high-quality textiles like silk or wool. These materials wear well, last a long time and never go out of style. Value Village purposely selects high-quality clothing, and puts more than 5,000 to 10,000 new items out every day.

CHECK THE LABEL

Chanel, Nike, Lululemon, Aritzia brands such as Wilfred and TNA — high-quality brand names are frequent finds at Value Village. As you are sifting through the racks, watch the labels. You will find items for $10 that would have originally retailed for hundreds.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

TRY IT ON

At Value Village, clothing is arranged by size so you can easily find the best fit for you, but since every item is different, make sure to try it on to find out how it fits.

KNOW WHEN TO SAY NO

Sometimes a clothing item just isn't for you. If it's not quite right, don't buy it. Or if you bought it and you are having second thoughts, bring it back. Value Village welcomes buyers to exchange their purchases within seven days so you can save your pocket money for items that feel just right.

CONSIDER GETTING IT TAILORED

If you find a $5 jacket in just the right shade of blue, but it doesn't quite fit, consider getting it altered at a tailor. It will still cost far less than it would new, and you will have a great piece that will last you for years.

Value Village ECO-STATS

facebook.com/ValueVillage @saversvvillage pinterest.com/saversvvillage

Value Village is one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world and diverts more than 650 million pounds of quality goods from landfills each year.

The EPA estimates that the average person throws away up to

70 POUNDS OF CLOTHING PER YEAR.

(SMART Association)

Almost **100%** of clothing and textiles are recyclable.

However, **85%** of clothing and textile waste goes to landfills. *(World Wear Project)*

Last year alone, **Value Village** repurposed:

329 MILLION TOPS

114 MILLION PAIRS OF PANTS

59 MILLION PAIRS OF SHOES

28 MILLION COATS

That's enough merchandise to supply the average woman's lifetime wardrobe almost **145,000 times over.**

Value Village gives a second life to more than 1.8 million pounds of reusable items every day, totaling

600 MIDSIZE CARS

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CFL

Simon closes book on historic career

The most prolific receiver in CFL history is calling it a career.

Slotback Geroy Simon announced his retirement Wednesday after 15 seasons.

The 38-year-old native of Johnstown, Pa., played 12 years with the B.C. Lions but finished his career with Saskatchewan, helping the Roughriders win the Grey Cup last year. It was his third championship.

Simon spent his first two CFL seasons with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and retires as the league's all-time leader in catches (1,029) and yards (16,352).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Sterling agrees to sell Clippers, attorney says

Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling agreed Wednesday to sign off on selling the team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for what would be a record $2 billion, according to his attorney.

Sterling "has made an agreement with the NBA to resolve all their differences," and as co-owner has given his consent to a deal that was negotiated by his wife, Shelly Sterling, to sell the team, said attorney Maxwell Blecher.

Donald Sterling filed a $1-billion suit against the NBA in federal court last week alleging the league violated his constitutional rights but Blecher said the suit will be dismissed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Williams is mobbed by his Kings teammates after he scored in overtime to beat the Rangers in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final in Los Angeles on Wednesday. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Royal recovery nets Kings overtime win

Stanley Cup final. L.A. overcomes two-goal deficit to win Game 1 in fourth period

Game 1

Kings	Rangers
3	2

Justin Williams scored 4:36 into overtime as the Los Angeles Kings rallied to edge the New York Rangers 3-2 in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final on Wednesday.

Dan Girardi fanned on a clearing attempt and the puck went to Mike Richards, who found Williams alone in front and the forward scored high to the stick side.

After going down 2-0 early, the Kings tied it up in the second period and came on like a freight train in the third period — outshooting New York 20-3. But the Rangers threatened late in a wild ending to regulation time.

New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist and the Kings' Jonathan Quick both lived up to their reputations on the night, with Quick busy early and Lundqvist late in an end-to-end game.

The Rangers managed 25 shots in regulation time. The shots were 2-2 in OT.

Game 2 goes Saturday at the Staples Center with advantage Los Angeles.

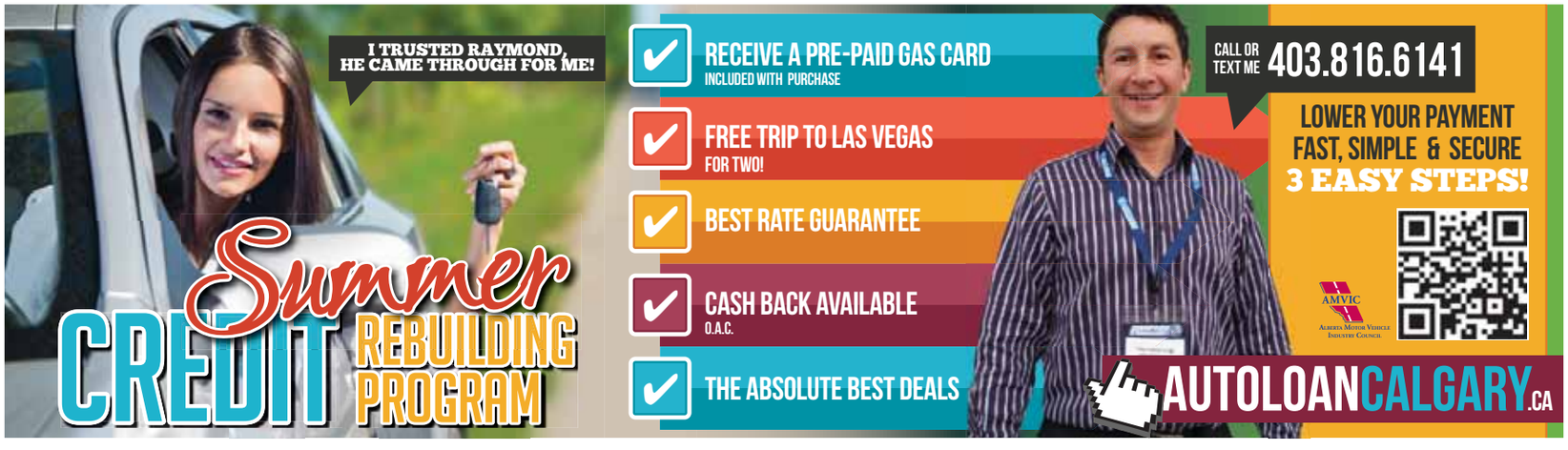
Teams winning Game 1 have gone on to claim the Cup 77 per cent of the time (57 of 74 series) since the final went to a best-of-seven format in 1939.

Benoit Pouliot and Carl Hagelin scored for the Rangers before a crowd of 18,399, the Kings' 118th straight sellout.

Kyle Clifford and Drew Doughty scored for Los Angeles, which trailed 2-0 in the first period.

The Kings are looking to win their second cup in three seasons while the Rangers are after their first championship in 20 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS



Cristiano Ronaldo is unquestionably one of the top individual talents of 2014. Scan the image to see some of history's best World Cup performers.

World Cup. Ronaldo hobbling ahead of Brazil

Portugal says forward Cristiano Ronaldo has tendinitis in his left leg to go with a left leg muscle injury as the team prepares for its World Cup opener on June 16 against Germany.

The Portuguese Football Federation also says in a medical report that Pepe, midfielder Raul Meireles and goalkeeper Beto all trained separately on Tuesday as they recover from injuries.

Ronaldo, the world player of the year, helped Real Madrid win the Champions League last month despite being hampered by leg injuries late in the season. Portugal is in the U.S., where it will play Mexico Friday and Ireland next week in friendlies before heading to Brazil. At the World Cup, Portugal also plays the United States and Ghana in Group G.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo is dealing with left leg injuries ahead of Portugal's World Cup opener against Germany on June 16. SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

England vs. Ecuador

Rooney gets back on England scoresheet

Wayne Rooney ended his four-game international goal drought as an experimental England side drew 2-2 with Ecuador in a feisty World Cup warm-up match on Wednesday.

It was a chippy match for a friendly as both teams ended with 10 men in Miami Gardens, Fla.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball legend

Zimmer passes away in Florida

Don Zimmer, a popular fixture in professional baseball for 66 years as a manager, player, coach and executive, died Wednesday. He was 83.

Zimmer was still working for the Tampa Bay Rays as a senior adviser, and the team confirmed he had died. Zimmer had been in a rehabilitation centre in Florida since having seven hours of heart surgery in mid-April. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays pounce on Tigers to ensure series victory

MLB. Lind, Cabrera help surging Toronto top slumping Detroit

On Wednesday

Blue Jays	Tigers
8	2

Adam Lind doubled twice to drive in three runs and Melky Cabrera added a homer and three hits, lifting the Toronto Blue Jays to an 8-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday night.

Lind's two-run double off Rick Porcello (8-3) in the sixth put Toronto ahead 3-2, and Aaron Loup got out of a bases-loaded, none-out jam in the bottom of the inning in relief of R.A. Dickey (6-4).

The AL East-leading Blue Jays added three runs in the eighth and two in the ninth in winning for the 18th time in 22 games.

Miguel Cabrera and Ian Kinsler homered for Detroit, but Kinsler also left the bases loaded twice. The AL Central-leading Tigers left 11 runners on base in their fourth straight loss. Detroit has dropped 12 of 16.

Jose Bautista also had three hits for Toronto, including a two-run double in the ninth.

Melky Cabrera opened the scoring in the first with a solo shot, but Miguel Cabrera answered in the bottom half with his 11th homer of the year. Kinsler's home run in the third put the Tigers ahead 2-1.

Porcello seemed to be cruising along, but he allowed a two-out double to Melky Cabrera in the sixth, followed by a walk to Bautista. Lind then hit a drive over Austin Jackson's head in Comerica Park's cavernous centre field, scoring both runners to put the Blue Jays ahead.

Dickey almost gave the lead right back, allowing a single in between two walks. But with the bases loaded, Loup came on and struck out pinch-hitter J.D. Martinez before getting Rajai Davis and Kinsler on foul popups.

Dickey allowed two runs and seven hits in five-plus innings, walking four and striking out four. Loup pitched two scoreless innings in relief.

Porcello allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings.

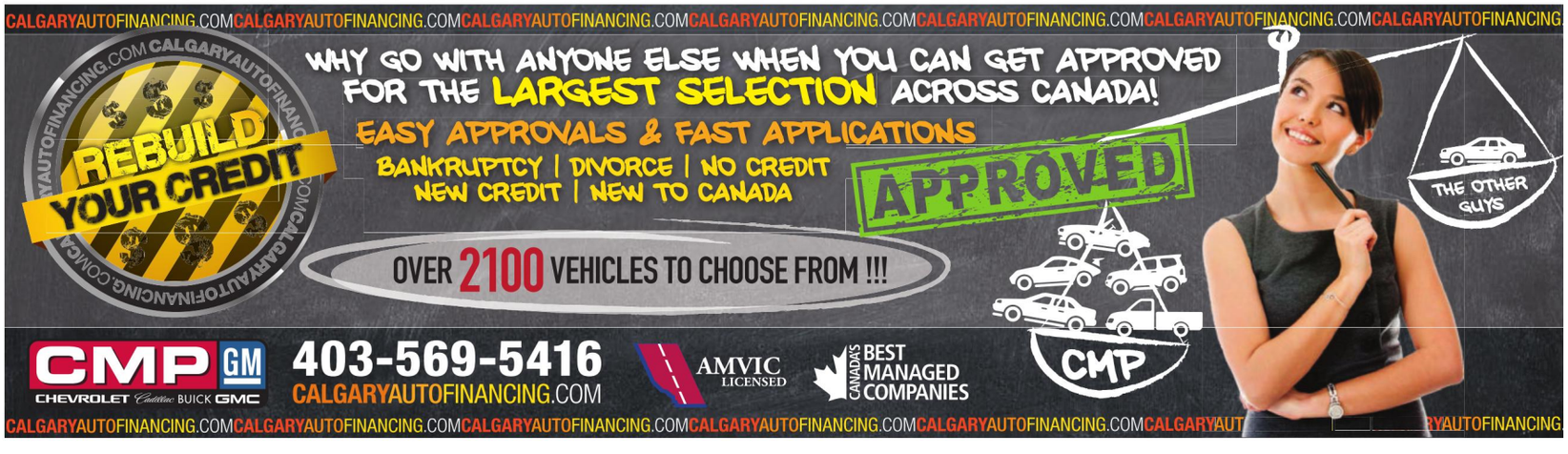
Toronto padded its lead in the eighth. Cabrera hit an RBI single and Lind added a run-scoring double in that inning. By the time the game ended, it seemed there were as many Blue Jays fans left at the ballpark as Tigers fans.

Tigers shortstop Eugenio Suarez made his major-league debut after being called up from the minors before the game. He entered as a substitute in the seventh, and his first plate appearance was eventful.

With men on first and second in the eighth, he hit a grounder to third. Brett Lawrie fielded it and stepped on third for a force, but his throw to first hit Suarez around the upper back for an error, leaving runners at second and third. The Tigers left them on base too.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melky Cabrera rounds third base after hitting a first-inning home run on Wednesday evening in Detroit. DUANE BURLESON/GETTY IMAGES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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
What happens today may convince you that you have allowed yourself to be lulled into a false sense of security but even if it's true it is no big deal. You're smart enough to handle whatever fate sends your way.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Why are you trying to do everything the hard way? Not only is it unnecessary but it could also be self-defeating. Be who you are, not who you think others want you to be.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A challenge will confront you today but you will overcome it with ease. Take action quickly and don't doubt for a moment that you will succeed. Good things are coming your way.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It is important that you think things through carefully today. There is a danger that you will act hastily and regret it later, so slow down, think about what it is you want to do and work slowly towards that goal.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Something will happen today to make you wonder if you've been too hasty in reaching certain conclusions. Just because some people have a way of life that is radically different to your own does not make them bad.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It may feel as if you're under the thumb at home and work, but there is no point getting stressed about it. Wait for the cosmic outlook to change, which it should do any day.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You're in an adventurous mood but this may not be the best time to venture into areas you don't know about. Wait until the full moon on the 13th has come and gone before moving out of your comfort zone.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Stay calm and keep telling yourself that everything will turn out right in the end. Above all don't allow yourself to get worked up about money matters. There is no reason at all to fear the worst.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Things may get bumpy over the next day or two but if you sit tight the turbulence will pass. If others want to throw tantrums that's up to them. You are under no obligation to follow their example.

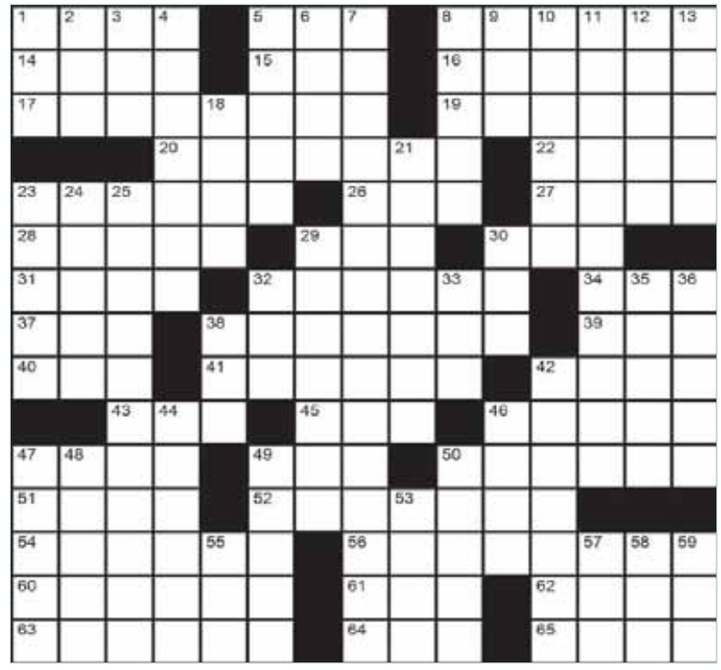
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Current influences highlight the need to be efficient, to get the most from yourself for the least input of time and energy. Pace yourself and look for ways to get from A to B simply.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A clash of egos could get rather heated over the next 24 hours, but the results should be positive. Hopefully it will get you thinking in new and more profitable directions.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your world will be rocked by what happens over the next few days but later you will look back and realize it was all for the best. Ultimately all change is good for you. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

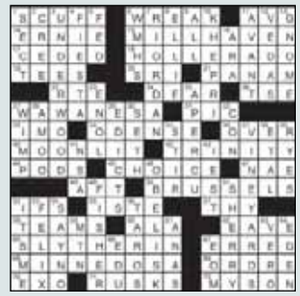
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Hamilton actor, Jonathan __ (b.1924 - d.2012 ...see #17-Across and #11-Down)
5. Pal
8. Book buyer
14. Jane __
15. Mined mineral
16. Refined
17. Vampire on #11-Down, __ Collins (Johnny Depp resurrected the role in the 2012 movie version)
19. Barber's shave-ees
20. Grand
22. Gull-like bird
23. David Bowie's "Space __"
26. Firearm
27. Glimpse
28. "Groovy!"
29. Advantages
30. Grey hue
31. Jealousy
32. Ed of "Modern Family"
34. Basic bug
37. "Take __, _ insist!"
38. "Do the __": Hit for #25-Down
39. Agnus __ (Lamb of God)
40. But, Latin-style
41. Keith Urban hit: 2 wds.
42. Peace bird
43. Roll
45. Feeling flu-ish
46. Strength
47. Mideast chieftain, variantly
49. Crossword band
50. Population count
51. NFL's Ravens city, for short
52. __-Windsor Tunnel
54. Sea __ (Aquatic creature)
56. Yukon's most northerly point, __ Island
60. Meathead's wife
61. "Yikes!"
62. Eddy __ (One of 'The Buyers' on CBC's "Four Rooms")
63. England's ancient invaders
64. Toronto's Yonge, et. al.
65. Safecracker

Down
1. Aquarian's mo.
2. Scandinavian rug
3. Flawed in a way [abbr.]
4. Concentration
5. British police officer
6. Russian river
7. Fare featured on based-in-Toronto channel Fashion Television: 2 wds.
8. Singer/actor Mr. Blades
9. Afore
10. Puts down
11. Gothic series of 1966 to 1971 on which #1-Across starred as the character at #17-Across: 2 wds.
12. Result in: 2 wds.
13. Pronounce once more
18. Manual's opposite
21. Evita or Hair
23. Three Dog Night: "__ __ the loneliest number..."
24. Al __ (Pasta preference)
25. Montreal-born singer/songwriter: 2 wds. (More at #38-Across)
29. How laundry might accumulate: 3 wds.
30. Supermodel Carol
32. War on Poverty agcy.
33. Roman Myth: Household deity
35. Nephew: French
36. Levels
38. Alphabet sequence
42. There, there ...your makeup will run.": 2 wds.
44. Joint: Prefix
46. Shar-__ (Some dogs)
47. "_ __ Life" (1998)
48. Actress Ms. Gibbs
49. Writer Ms. Ferber's
50. Wine stoppers
53. Jackie Wilson's "__ Petite"
55. "Am _ __ your way?"
57. Furrow maker
58. Baby bird's birthplace
59. Account

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		5		7		9	
		5				3		
	2		4		9		6	
	9	3				5	8	
8								9
	4	7				6	3	
	7		3		8		4	
		1				7		
	6		2		1		5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	3	5	7	4	8	6	2
2	7	8	1	6	3	5	9	4
5	4	6	9	2	8	7	1	3
3	2	1	6	4	9	6	5	7
6	9	5	2	1	7	3	4	8
7	8	4	3	5	6	1	2	9
1	3	2	4	8	5	9	7	6
8	5	7	6	9	2	4	3	1
4	6	9	7	3	1	2	8	5

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 12° MIN: 6°	MAX: 15° MIN: 3°	MAX: 18° MIN: 4°

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